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ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH
Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH, Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The congregation of this parish occupies a stone church building and attached parish house on a good-sized plot of ground at the corner of Ridge Avenue and Fairthorne Avenue. The entrances to the church and parish house are on Fairthorne Avenue, and the rectory occupies the front portion of the lot. The church seats 200 persons, and is in good condition. At the time of the Study the parish house was undergoing some refurbishing. The undercroft of the church is used for church school and other parish house functions. The rectory is a frame, two-story residence of 12 rooms and is reported to be in good condition, although needing some minor redecorating. This building is close to but separated from the church and parish by a parking area. Insurance coverage on all buildings is approximately 79% of reported replacement value.

The history of this parish dates from 1859 and a complete, detailed account is to be found in the Church Self-Study Form on Page K-4 and 4A.

THE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD

This church is located in the City of Philadelphia Planning Analysis section called Roxborough-Manayunk. This area is the upper portion of the northwest arm of the city, and is a high ridge, running parallel to and overlooking the Schuylkill River.

The United States Census Bureau has divided the entire City of Philadelphia into small geographical units called census tracts. These are used for the purpose of enumeration. St. Alban's Church is located in Census Tract 21-L. The population of this area increased from 2,428 in 1950 to 3,574 in 1960, or 47.2%.

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Local estimates are that the growth pattern will continue. The Division of Research has arbitrarily assigned this census tract and five adjacent tracts to be a combined "parish study area". In 1960, the total population of this parish study area was 16,536. This region contained lots of children as may be seen on the chart below by the percentage of the population that was under 15 years of age. Except in two of the census tracts to the south and east of the church location, the older people in the area comprised less than 10%. The non-white portion of the population was negligible.

CENSUS TRACT	POPULATION 1950	1960	% CHANGE	% 14 & UNDER	% 65 & OVER	% NON-WHITE
21-L	2,428	3,574	47.2	28.3	8.2	0.1
21-K	558	1,004	79.9	32.7	9.0	0
21-N	NA	4,756	----	28.7	9.0	1.7
21-Q	2,280	2,562	12.4	23.6	15.0	0.6
21-R	NA	4,576	----	22.9	14.5	1.4
21-C	51	64	25.5	21.9	3.1	0
Totals:		16,536				1.0

In 1960, the population in the immediate vicinity of St. Alban's Church was more highly educated than in the rest of the area. The chart below gives the percentage of adults 25 years of age and over who had graduated from or attended high school and college. The median age of the population ranges from the low 30's to the low 40's.

CENSUS TRACT	EDUCATION OF ADULTS 25 YRS. OF AGE & OVER % H.S. Grad.	% College 1-3 Yrs.	% College Grad.	Over 25	Med. Edc.	Median Age M.	F.
21-L	35.4	7.2	7.1	2,171	12.0	32.8	34.6
21-K	27.0	2.6	5.1	586	10.3	32.6	33.1
21-N	16.5	2.5	2.8	2,708	9.2	30.4	31.5
21-Q	26.9	6.2	2.9	1,692	10.4	36.2	40.5
21-R	21.9	7.1	5.6	3,012	10.2	37.8	40.1
21-C	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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From 1955 to 1960 the area around St. Alban's Church had the greatest percentage of families that moved. Approximately 50% changed their residence during this time, and because the area was increasing in population it is fair to assume that these families moved into the area rather than out. The median family income ranged from $6,100.00 to $7,100.00, which is fairly moderate.

CENSUS TRACT	NON-WHITE POPULATION 1950	1960	% CHANGE	MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME	RESIDENCE 1960 SAME AS 1955 PERCENT
21-L	3	5	66.7	$7,106	50.6
21-K	0	0	----	7,167	62.9
21-N	NA	82	----	6,124	76.0
21-Q	16	15	-6.3	6,760	69.9
21-R	NA	64	----	6,634	71.4
21-C	0	0	----	NA	62.5
Total:		166			

At the time of the Diocesan Study there were 704 identifiable Episcopalians living in the six census tracts of the parish study area. This number is 4.3% of the 1960 population, a figure that is above the 3.2% diocesan average and the 1.8% for the Episcopal Church nationally.

Of these 704 Episcopalians, 237, or 33.7%, look to St. Alban's Church for spiritual ministry. This number is 49.8% of the mapped membership of the congregation. Since more than 50% of the membership lives outside of the parish area St. Alban's cannot be classified as a neighborhood church.

CENSUS TRACT	TOTAL POP.	TOTAL EPIS.	% OF POP. EPIS.	TOTAL PARISH MEMB.	% EPIS. MEMB.	% PARISH MEMB.
21-L	3,574	175	4.9	73	41.7	15.2
21-K	1,004	44	4.4	16	36.4	3.4
21-N	4,756	136	2.9	50	36.8	10.5
21-Q	2,562	100	3.9	22	22.0	4.6
21-R	4,576	190	4.2	51	26.8	10.8
21-C	64	59	92.2	25	42.4	5.3
Totals:	16,536	704	4.3	237	33.7	49.8

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Located within the church neighborhood are to be found two public grade schools, two public high schools, one parochial nursery school, and two parochial grade schools. In addition, there are 10 religious congregations in the area, three of them being Methodists, and two Roman Catholic.

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THE CHURCH PROGRAM

Since portions of the church program are discussed at some length at the end of this report, the following will be brief.

A total of approximately 26% of the reported baptized membership is present for all services on an average Sunday at St. Alban's. This compares with the 45% to 50% in most Episcopal churches across the country.

No summary was given of the participation by adults in the program of the church, although four organizations for women were listed. It is reported that there are no organizations for men.

The church school provides classes for all ages. The highest total classroom attendance on an average Sunday has been 59% of the enrollees. The lowest attendance has been 33%. There is no local teacher-training program for the one male and 12 female teachers, and they are encouraged to attend a local interdenominational leadership school.

Confirmation instruction is a maximum 15 hours for children and 18 hours for adults. The rest of the adult education program of the parish consists of a Bible Class with 10 members and one _____ Vestry Conference.

Parish leaders are to be encouraged to read the Church Self-Study Form in its entirety, and for this purpose, the entire report is reproduced following this discussion.

GENERAL DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND FIELD STUDY
Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Date 2/25/64

CHURCH SELF-STUDY FORM

PA 38

I. IDENTIFICATION

Church The Church of St. Alban

Street 6769 Ridge Avenue

City Philadelphia

County Philadelphia

Diocese Pennsylvania

Parish or Mission Parish

State Pennsylvania 19128

What geographic area does this church serve? 21st Ward of Philadelphia (Roxborough)

II. THE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD

A. The church is located in a section of the city which is occupied by:

Downtown commercial uses ____ Industrial uses ____ Apartment dwellings X

Rooming houses ____ Single-home dwellings X A college ____ Military uses ____ Other institutions ____

B. If more than one type is checked above, please clarify:

A residential area of mixed types of dwellings.

C. Is the church neighborhood changing in any way? Describe:

An increase of multiple family buildings.

D. The following schools are located within the church neighborhood:

PUBLIC GRADESCHOOLS	ADDRESS
Shawmont School	Shawmont & Eva Streets
Levering School	Ridge Avenue & Monastery Street

PUBLIC JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS	ADDRESS
Roxborough High School	Ridge Avenue & Fountain Street
Philadelphia Horticulture & Agriculture School	Henry Avenue & Cinnaminson Street

PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL NURSERY SCHOOLS	ADDRESS
St. Timothy's Nursery School	5712 Ridge Avenue

PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL GRADE SCHOOLS	ADDRESS
St. Timothy's Day School	5712 Ridge Avenue
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Cathedral Road

PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS	ADDRESS
none	

JUNIOR COLLEGES AND COLLEGES	ADDRESS
none	

E. The following churches are located within the church neighborhood:

NAME OF CHURCH AND DENOMINATION	ADDRESS
Roman Catholic:	
Chapel of the Nativity B.V.M.	
(Ukranian Catholic)	6763 Ridge Avenue
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Cathedral Road
Ridge Avenue Methodist	7805 Ridge Avenue
Leverington Presbyterian	Ridge Avenue & Hermitage Street
First Methodist Church	480 Green Lane
Roxborough Baptist Church	Ridge & Lyceum Avenues
Emmanual Methodist Church	Gates & Silverwood Streets
Grace Reformed Episcopal	7372 Henry Avenue
Epiphany Lutheran Church	520 Livesey Street

III. HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

Please write out a short history of this congregation. How was the work started? Give the important dates and events.

Early in the year 1859 a group of Communicants of St. David's Church, Manayunk, living in the vicinity of Ridge Avenue and Creuse's Lane (now Livesay Lane) desired a church in Roxborough. As a result of several meetings, a congregation was formed and called, tentatively, "St. Peter's Church."

When actual organization started, the group took the name of "The Church of St. Alban" in honor of the first British Martyr, Alban.

The first service was held on June 26, 1859 in a store at 6785 Ridge Ave. (which is now a private dwelling) just two properties north of the present location. There were fifty persons in attendance. The following Sunday July 3, 1859, a Sunday School was organized with forty-eight pupils attending.

The Primary Department met in a private home at the northeast corner of Ridge Ave. and Fairthorne. Frederick Fairthorne donated the property on which the Church and Parish House now stand on Fairthorne Ave. The corner lot on Ridge Ave. and Fairthorne was purchased in May of 1879, on which the Rectory was built, being completed in November 1879.

In February 1860 a deacon was appointed to serve as assistant to St. David's rector and to have charge of St. Alban's Mission. On September 15, 1860 the cornerstone was laid for the Chapel, and the first service was held in the finished church on October 13, 1861. On January 8, 1862, Bishop Stevens consecrated the Church of St. Alban.

It was not until the summer of 1898 that the church became self-supporting and relinquished Diocesan aid. This seemed to be a fitting time to start an Endowment fund and from a very small beginning has grown into a substantial amount, namely $25,300.

A new Altar was installed and dedicated in 1929 also a new lectern and pulpit were installed, replacing the one placed in service in 1899. In 1936 the present kitchen facilities in the Parish House were put into service. This kitchen has served us well, being the hub of many dinners and receptions.

Through the earnest efforts of our Wattis Group, which had its beginning in 1939, many parish improvements have been made possible. Our rectory was renovated in 1953 at a cost of $5,000. which was completely underwritten over a two year period.

A Mile of Pennies program was instituted on Fourth of July 1956 to provide for various church improvements. (One mile equals $844.80) With the consistent collection of pennies, it was possible in 1958 to completely redecorate the interior of the church. It is hoped with our current accumulation of this Fund to rebuild our organ.

In 1958, in anticipation of our Centennial, the parish requested that our charter and by laws be revised to conform with present needs and conditions. The permission was granted by the Diocese and the proper court. Congregational Annual Meetings are now held on the Third Monday in January. Twelve men are elected to our Vestry. The new charter became effective January 1, 1959.

Our oldest parish Organization in continuous service are the Altar Guild and the Sewing Guild. The Young People's Fellowship and a Young Women's Guild are new groups.

The St. Alban's News, a monthly publication, is prepared by our Young people, under adult supervision.

The beauty of our church has been greatly enhanced by the installation of a complete new lighting system in the Church and Parish House, just recently completed, at a cost in excess of $5,000. This amount will be fully paid within one year out of accumulated and current income.

IV. THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

A. Church properties:

1. Describe and give location of all land owned by the congregation, reporting the use of each parcel.

A plot approximately 300 ft. by 130 ft. on the corner of Ridge Avenue and Fairthorne Avenue. The front portion occupied by the rectory, central portion vacant, the rear portion occupied by the Church and Parish House.

2. Type of church building: Frame ___ Brick ___ Stone X Other _____ (type)

Describe the church building, giving number of sittings; condition of building; and improvements needed, with estimated cost:

One story stone building with fellowship room in basement. Stain Glass windows. 200 sittings. Small slate roof. Condition of building is good, except for a problem of moisture proofing in vestibule causing deterioration of paint. Estimated cost $500.

Replacement Value $ 70,000.00 Amount of insurance carried $ 60,000.00

3. Type of parish hall or house: Attached X Separated _____;

In basement of the church _____; Frame _____ Brick _____

Stone X Other _____ (type)

Describe, giving the number of rooms, the condition of the building, and improvements needed, with the estimated cost.

One auditorium, kitchen and powder room. Building is in fair condition. Interior requires redecorating and new floor covering. Estimated cost $3,000.

Replacement value $22,684.00 Amount of insurance carried $ 15,000.00

B. Membership (secure from parish records):

1. Number of church families: Total number 151

   Number of individuals not in families 57

2.

Baptized membership			Communicants			Church School		
1951 1950	1960	1963 Now	1951 1950	1960	1963 Now	1951 1950	1960	1963 Now
469	379	456	237	235	246	113	106	96

3.

	5 yrs. ago 1959	4 yrs. ago 1960	3 yrs. ago 1961	2 yrs. ago 1962	Last year '63
Number of baptized members who were removed from the parish list	10		17	13	
Number of baptized members who were added to the parish list		29			107

4.

Communicants added:	-59-	60	61	62	63
By confirmation from Episcopal families	4	14	-	7	7
By confirmation from other Churches	1	4	1	1	3
By reception from other Churches	1	3	-	-	-
By baptism and confirmation from no church	1	-	-	2	1
Total	7	21	1	10	11

5. Attendance:

   Number of communicants who attended regularly last year 140

   Number of communicants who attended occasionally 50

   Number who did not attend last year, but lived in the community 10

   Number of communicants who did not live in the community, but were on the parish records, not transferred 46

6. How many persons attended the last annual business meeting? 30

V. WORSHIP

A. List schedule of regular Sunday services, including church school:

TYPE OF SERVICE	HOUR	ATTENDANCE (Adults & Children)* LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH
Holy Communion	8:30 a.m.	5	20	30
Family Service	9:45 a.m.	15	50	75
Morning Prayer	11:00 a.m.	30	50	80

*Use figures from Church Service Register

B. Weekday services:

TYPE OF SERVICE	DAY AND HOUR	ATTENDANCE* LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH
none				

*Use figures from the Church Service Register

C. Special services or missions held during the average year (including Lent):

Holy Days - Holy Communion

Sunday Evenings in Lent

Tuesday A.M. during Lent

Thursday p.m. during Lent

D. Number and nature of services in which this congregation participates with other Episcopal congregations. State average attendance from this congregation:

Good Friday - 3 hours - Average attendance	50
Corporate Communion for Men & Boys	10
Lenten Offering Presentation Service	25

E. What experiments or adjustments have been made in changing the hours or the format of services? Comment on results:

We attempted to change the hours several years ago, but without success. People preferred the former schedule to the one attempted. During July and August the eleven o'clock service is rescheduled for ten a.m. with general approval of the congregation. The service merges with Church School.

F. Additional information about Sunday services:

1. Are birthdays, anniversaries, and the departed regularly remembered? Yes
2. Is there a coffee or hospitality hour after any service? Yes, occasionally
3. Is baby care provided during any service? attempted without success

VI. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A. Church School

1. Registration and attendance

a. Teachers and staff 14

b. Students 82

Total 96

c. Lowest total classroom attendance during the past year 27

d. Highest total classroom attendance during the past year (except for Christmas and Easter) 48

e. Are absentee cards used? Yes

f. How many months of the year is the church school in operation? 9

g. If teachers call on students in case of absence, or for other reasons, please give details.

Usually follow-up by telephone. In case of sickness, get well cards.

2. Worship schedule

CLASS OR DEPARTMENT	DAY	HOUR	DURATION	LEADER
Beginners & Primary	Sunday	9:45 a.m.	15 min.	Supertendent of Dept.
"Upper School"	Sunday	9:45 am.	20 min.	Rector

3. Instruction schedule

CLASS	REGISTRATION	AGE	SEX	DAY	HOUR	DURATION	COURSE MATERIAL
Nursery	8	3 & 4	Mix	Sun.	9:45	45 min.	Episcopal
Beginners	10	4&5	Mix	"	"	"	Fellowship
First Grade	5	6	Mix	"	"	"	Series
3 & 4th Grade	11	8-11	M	"	"	40 min.	"
2,3 & 4th Grades	8	7-9	F	"	"	"	"
5th & 6th	5	10-11	F	"	"	"	"
Jr. High	4	12-13	F	"	"	"	"
Sr. High	7	14-16	F	"	"	"	"
Sr. Bible Class	6	Adults (1 H.S. Boy)	Mix	"	"	"	"

4. List the teaching aids used, including audio-visual material.

Episcopal Fellowship Series

National Council Lenten Offerings

Films & Film - strips

5. Describe the program for pre-school children.

Pittsburg Plan Materials for font roll.

6. Data on the teaching staff

a. How are teachers recruited? Personal invitation from Superintendent

b. Describe the way in which teachers are trained, giving the number of sessions, the leaders, etc. No formal program at Parish. Teachers encouraged to attend local Interdenominational Leadership School.

c. How are teachers assisted in the performance of their duties?

Conferences with Rector, use of Rectors library, quarterly teachers meeting.

d. Summary of teachers' backgrounds

AGE	Number	EDUCATION	Number	YEARS TEACHING	Number
19 years or less	1	Grade school		one	2
20 to 29	5	Junior high		two	1
30 to 39	1	Senior high 1 to 3 years	12	three	4
40 to 49	3	College		four	1
50 years or more	3	College grad.		five	-
		Graduate study	1	6 to 10	2
Male	1			11 to 20	3
Female	12	K-12		20 and over	-

7. What problems does the church school have? _____

Lack of individual teaching areas. Inability to recruit male teachers.

B. Vacation Church School

1. When is it held? None

2. For how long each day? None

3. What type of courses are taught? None

4. How many children attend, usually? None

5. How many of these children are regular pupils of this congregation's church school? None

6. How many teachers are there? None

C. Released Time Program - Not permitted in Phila.

1. When are classes held? _____

2. What type of courses are taught? _____

3. How many of this congregation's children attend? _____

4. What is the relationship of the teachers to this congregation?

5. What is the relationship of the Released Time classes to the Christian education program of this congregation?

D. Day School: If the congregation has a day school, please fill out the Parochial School Report Form and submit it with this report.

None

E. Confirmation Instruction

1. Children

a. What is the usual age of confirmation? 11-13 b. How many instruction sessions are held? 6-9 c. How long is each session? 1 1/4 hr. d. Who is the instructor? Rector e. What material is used? Various sources.

f. What is the relationship of the confirmation class material to the regular church school curriculum? Independent -- through related by reference.

2. Adults

a. How many sessions are held? 6-9 b. How long is each session? 1 1/2 hr. c. Who is the instructor? Rector d. What material is used? Various sources.

F. Adult Education

1. List the general adult education program in the congregation, including Bible classes, parents' classes, discussion groups, etc.

NAME OF GROUP	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	LENGTH OF MEETINGS	INSTRUCTOR
Adult Bible Class	10	40	1 hour	Rector
Tract Rack Reading Materials - Forward Movement, etc. Distribution of Seasonal Forward Movement Booklets				

2. What Retreats, missions, Quiet Days, etc., have the members participated in during the last two years? Estimate the total number of participants.

Vestry - Overnight meeting with other local vestries, at Conference Center. Approx. 25 laymen.

3. What leader- and participant-training programs have been held in the last two years, such as the Indiana Plan, Parish Life Conferences, Missions, and Institutes? Estimate the total number of participants.

None

G. How can the Christian education program of this congregation be strengthened?

VII. SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONS - Include, where applicable, vestry or bishop's committee, parish council, choirs, guilds, circles, ushers, acolytes (for men as well as boys), college work, etc.

A. For Women

1. Give the total number of adult women in the congregation. _____

2. Give the number of organizations for adult women. 4

3. Give the total active membership of all these organizations. _____

B. For Men

1. Give the total number of adult men in the congregation. _____

2. Give the number of organizations for adult men. 0

3. Give the total membership of all these organizations. _____

C. For Men and Women

1. Give the number of organizations for men and women. 1

2. Give the total active membership of all these organizations 8

D. For Girls in:	grade school	junior high	high school
1. Total number of girls			
2. Number of organizations			
3. Total active membership			

E. For Boys in:	grade school	junior high	high school
1. Total number of boys			
2. Number of organizations			
3. Total active membership			

F. For Youth in:	grade school	junior high	high school
1. Number of organizations	1		1
2. Total active membership	11		7

N.B. Please make a separate report for each individual organization, using the format on the following pages.

VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name Wattis Group Church of St. Alban

Total active members 8 Average attendance at meetings 5

Number of meetings each month 4 Day and time of meetings Day

B. Why does this organization exist?

To help with Church expenses.

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?

From the women of the parish

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

none

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

Sponsor 1 Rummage Sale

Booth at Garden Party

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

Service to the Church -

Require cooperation from all parishioners.

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness?

Patronize Wattis Grocery Store and Wider solicitation of labels.

Signed by: Mrs. Theordore A. Bechtel Title: Chairman

VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name Sewing Guild of St. Alban

Total active members 18 Average attendance at meetings 14

Number of meetings each month 4 or 5 Day and time of meetings Tuesday 10:30-3:00

B. Why does this organization exist?

Has been in existence for the past 50 years.

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?

All ages - all ladies who would like to sew.

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

"Lenten Services during Lent"

All Church members invited.

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

Altar Guild members - a few

4 ladies who work in kitchen and get our lunch.

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

Not enough work or orders that pay. to allow us to buy material or bank anything.

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness? Orders that will give us a profit.

Signed by: Viola L. James Title: President for the past 50 yrs.

VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name St. Alban's Altar Guild

Total active members 17 Average attendance at meetings 10

Number of meetings each month Semi Annual Day and time of meetings

Saturday before Palm Sun.
Saturday after All Saints Day

B. Why does this organization exist?

To care for the altar and arrange for all services. To promote memorials for Flowers and Candles.

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?

The women of the parish.

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

Rector instructs all new members. Explanations given at all altar guild meetings.

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

None, due to the nature of the group.

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

As the service schedule requires - no problems.

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness?

Nothing, at present

Signed by: Lavinia H. Neely Title: Secretary

VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name Jr. Choir - Sr. Choir

Total active members Jr. 11 Sr. 7 Average attendance at meetings Jr. 10 Sr. 5

Number of meetings each month 4 Day and time of meetings Jr. Th. 7:15 Sr. Th. 8:15

B. Why does this organization exist?

To provide the musical portions of the service.

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?

Jr. - Church School; Sr. - adult congregation

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

Educational - teaching new music to choir members.

Worship - participate in Parish & Diocesan Services.

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

Sr. Choir: No formal activities other than choir rehearsal.

Jr. Choir: Christmas party, and one annual outing.

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

Jr. Choir - no problems. Sr. Choir - No problems, other than recruiting more members.

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness?

If the above problems were solved, the Sr. Choir would function more effectively.

Signed by: Ann Curry / Jane Manley Title: Jr. Choir Mother / Sr. Choir President

VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name Young People's Fellowship

Total active members 4 Average attendance at meetings 4

Number of meetings each month 1 Day and time of meetings Sunday afternoon or evening

B. Why does this organization exist?

To publish the church paper,"St. Alban's News"

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?

High School Students

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

none

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

Social activities - some in parish house

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

Can't get the younger high school students to come out.

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness?

Sponsor a better social program.

Signed by: Florence Mays Title: President

IX. CLERGY OR LAY READERS IN CHARGE SINCE 1930

NAME	APPROX. AGE AT START OF MINISTRY HERE	PERIOD OF TENURE	MOVED TO:
Rev. N. Herbert Caley		1930-1944	St. James - Langhorne
Rev. Robert H. Stetler	32	1945 - to date	

A. Does the present minister live in the neighborhood? Yes

Does he give full time to this church? Yes If not, what other church(es) does he serve, or what other work does he do?

B. How many people from this parish have gone into full time work for the church within the past ten years, or are now studying for such work? None
Please give details.

C. How many licensed lay readers serve the congregation now? None

Do any lay readers from this congregation serve other congregations? No

If so, which congregations?

X. FINANCE

A. Income (Last Full Year): (1) Pledges $ 6,059.31 (2) Plate offerings $ 571.04 (3) Parish ~~XX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~Mission~~ organizations $ 1,650.40 (4) Endowments $ 6,683.33 (5) Special fund drives $ 1,650.95 (6) Other (please specify) $ 1,358.41 June Fair

B. Disbursements

	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	Last Full Year 1963
Total current expenses		7,594.99	8,607.92	10,953.55	13,998.33	20,536.09
Diocesan Assessment		129.46	219.33	204.96	221.00	314.92
Missionary Disbursements		524.52	728.04	608.62	535.00	990.00
Special parish expense		1,968.30	885.54	604.18	1,045.71	1,112.21
Clergy salary or salaries: from congregation a)		1,906.45 (9 mons.)	2,778.41	3,800.04	5,163.49	4,875.88
b)						
from other sources a)						
b)						

Rental value of the rectory $ 100 per mo.

Is the church in debt? Noo Amount of debt $ Method of repayment

No mortgages or notes or other forms of loan.

Finance (cont'd)

7. Is a thorough Every Member Canvass conducted each year? No

If yes, by mail or personal solicitation? ---- Describe the training of the canvassers. None

8. What other means of fund raising or stewardship education are used?

Use of monthly News & weekly leaflets. Use of special envelopes & Lenten Cards. Occasional reference in Rector's Sermons.

9. If this is a mission or aided parish, what is the potential for self-support?

10. Additional comments or information on finances:

Church Envelopes issued to all communicant members with increasing regularity of usage. Endowment Fund increasing annually.

C. Travel:

1. Does the priest have a car? Yes

2. By whom is the car purchased? Priest X Congregation ___ Diocese ___

3. How much is the annual operating expense of the car, omitting depreciation? $ 900.

4. By whom is the operating expense paid?

Rector - with aid from travel allowance

5. How much does the local congregation pay? $30. per month

6. Average number of miles traveled per month on church business 800

XI. CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM AND VISITATION

A. Clergy pastoral calling during the past year by rector or vicar:*

TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF CALLS PER WEEK LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH
1. Family or routine parish	6	10	12
2. Sick or emergency	5	10	15
3. Calls for other purposes	5	10	13

4. Time set aside for pastoral calling:

3 hours per day & 2 evenings

5. How do the clergy organize their parish calling?

Sick and shut-in; Newcomers; follow up before and after

Funeral or Baptism; Parishioners as time permits.

6. How do the clergy organize their calling on the unchurched and newcomers?

Follow through on "Welcome Wagon" leads

Follow up new worshippers

Contacts in local hospitals

7. Time spent in pastoral counseling (average hours per week) Not schedules as per need

* Please give similar information, separately, for other clergy.

B. Lay calling:

1. Describe the Zone or Neighborhood Organization.

Zone system suggested - but not adopted by Vestry.

2. Describe the program of lay pastoral visitation, including the number of participants and the time spent.

Not formally developed - sometimes referrals made as to neighbors or members for choir, Guild, etc.

3. Describe the program of lay evangelism (including the congregation's approach to newcomers and to the unchurched), giving the number of participants and the amount of time. _____

No organized program, individual contact as occasion arises.

4. How are newcomers integrated into the life of this congregation?

Welcomed to services and encouraged to attend organizations.

5. Describe any religious census of the area made by the congregation itself or with other churches during the last ten years.

none

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. What use is made of the press? Weekly notices and occasional advertisements.

B. What use is made of radio and/or television? None

C. What use is made of the U.S. Mail? Monthly publication (St. Alban's News) and other seasonal announcements and special occasions

D. Describe the regular publications which are mailed or distributed, including Sunday bulletins, parish newsletters, etc. St. Alban's News (monthly bulletin), Sunday Bulletins to absentees occasionally

E. How many church road signs are there? 1

XIII. NEIGHBORHOOD OR COMMUNITY

A. Is this congregation community-minded? Yes

B. Describe the clergy participation in community affairs. Clergy Club, Hospital Chaplaincy, Community Council, Youth Conservation Committee of 5th Police District

C. Describe the participation of the congregation in community affairs.

Fourth of July Parade, Special Charity Appeals.

D. Describe the general parish program for the community (including such church-sponsored programs as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.):

None

E. List community organizations using the parish hall and its facilities:

None

F. Describe the way in which the congregation cooperates with other religious bodies:

Member of Philadelphia Council of Churches

Participates in quarterly Hym Sings

Participates in summer union evening services.

XIV. PARTICIPATION IN DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL CHURCH PROGRAMS:

A. What offices do the clergy hold in the diocese, missionary district, or National Church? Member of Presentation Service Committee

B. What offices do the lay people hold in the diocese, missionary district, or National Church? None

C. What diocesan or National Church programs have directly benefited this congregation? Corporate Communion for Men and Boys

D. Describe the men's participation in diocesan programs:

Corporate Communion for Men and Boys

E. Describe the women's participation in diocesan programs:

None

F. Describe youth participation in diocesan programs:

None

G. Does this congregation pay its full Missionary Share or Quota? Yes

H. What percent of the congregation's budget does for missionary work? 7%

XV. STAFF

A. List all paid personnel working for this congregation, giving title, function, and salary, and telling whether full or part-time.

Rev. Robert W. Stetler, Rector, $5,400. full time

Mrs. Mitzi S. Missimer, Organist, $900 part time

Mr. J. Bruce Freas, Sexton, $1,200. part time

B. Describe the use of volunteer personnel by this congregation.

Composition and publishing of St. Alban's News

Preparation of Sunday Bulletins

current maintenance of mailing list

weekly services of choir mother

XVI. FUTURE POLICY, PROGRAM, AND BUDGET

A. In adopting a policy for an expanded program for this congregation, in order to vitalize its Christian witness to the community; to extend its outreach of Christian fellowship to all the unchurched; to increase initiative and responsibility for all members of the congregation; to develop local financial resources with a view towards self-support and parochial status (if not already attained); and to further other essential advances, what are the immediate needs as to:

1. Personnel: Part time secretary

2. Buildings: Modernized Parish House and parking area.

3. Equipment: Rebuilding of organ

B. What are the major opportunities that face this congregation?

Expanding population from new apartment buildings

C. What are the major problems that face this congregation?

Poor public transportation on Sundays

D. What program needs seem evident on the basis of this Study?

E. What would be the approximate capital cost to meet these needs?

F. What would be the annual operating budget to maintain the program?

_____

G. What steps are now being taken locally to meet these needs and opportunities?

_____

_____

_____

H. What steps are now being taken by the diocese or district, or might be taken, to assist in meeting these needs and opportunities?

_____

_____

_____

I. Further data or comment on the general needs and problems of this congregation:

_____

_____

_____

The data in this report were furnished by the following committee:

NAME	OCCUPATION	NUMBER OF YEARS IN PARISH
Grace Gidley	Accounting Clerk	21 plus
Jeanne K. Wright	Hospital Surgical Clerk	less than 1 year
Mrs. Mey Robinson	Cashier	7 years
Miss Maureen Robinson	Secretary	7 years
Miss Constance Cressman	Secretary	8 years
Mrs. David McFadden	Artist	21 plus
Mr. Ralph Purvis		

Date completed: _____

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP FROM MAPS

A total of 476 individuals were located on the membership map submitted by this parish. They are to be found in three Delaware County census tracts, 13 Montgomery County census tracts, 34 census tracts in the City of Philadelphia, and nine individuals, representing 1.9% of the total, were reported living out of state. The six individuals in Delaware County represent 1.2% of the total, the 49 living in Montgomery County comprised 10.4% of the whole, while the 412 in the City of Philadelphia make up 86.5% of the mapped membership.

Census Tract 21-L, in which the church facilities are located, contains the largest number of mapped members.

Details of the membership distribution may be seen on the following page.

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MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION TABLE

PARISH PHILADELPHIA ST ALBANS

CENSUS TRACT OR AREA	NUMBER OF MAPPED MEMBERS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MAPPED MEMBERSHIP
D 7	2	4
D 15	2	4
D 98A	2	4
M 16A	1	2
M 25	1	2
M 5	5	11
M 9C	1	2
M 9E	7	15
M 14B	7	15
M 14C	5	11
M 30	3	6
M 40A	8	17
M 40C	5	11
M 59A	2	4
M 66	1	2
M 85	3	6
21C	25	53
21D	19	40
21F	5	11
21J	23	48
21K	16	34
X 21L	73	152
21N	50	105
21Q	22	46
21R	51	108
21S	6	13
21T	28	59
21U	17	36
21V	15	32
22H	2	4
22J	10	21
22K	3	6
22N	1	2
22O	1	2
24B	4	8
24I	1	2
27C	1	2
27D	1	2
28D	2	4
38C	9	19
38D	1	2
38F	6	13
40B	2	4
44A	2	4
50M	2	4
56J	3	6
58F	1	2
58M	5	11
59I	2	4
59J	3	6
OUT STATE	9	19
	476	1000

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL DATA FROM JOURNALS

This portion of the Study concerns itself with the figures taken from the Journals of the Diocese. Statistics were gathered for every fifth year from 1940 through 1960 and for the next three years thereafter. Details of these vital statistics may be seen on the special chart that follows this discussion.

According to the figures in the Journal, the baptized membership of this congregation declined slowly from 1940 to 1962. From 1945 to 1955, there was a slight reversal of this decline, but in 1960 it began again. From 1962 to 1963, there were a reported 107 baptized members added to the rolls of this parish. Since this figure does not fit the declining pattern, and since the communicants reported from 1962 to 1963 show a decline of five, parish leaders may wish to investigate to see whether the proper figure was reported to the Journal or printed therein.

The communicants of the congregation were higher in 1940 than they have been since. The pattern has fluctuated through the years but has remained approximately the same since 1955.

The church school enrollment, except for 1945, has remained within a few numbers of being the same throughout the years.

From 1961 through 1963 there were 37 persons baptized and 11 persons presented for confirmation in this congregation. These figures represent 5.2% and 1.5% respectively of the communicant strength. Comparable figures are 3.9% and 4.1% for the Diocese of Pennsylvania and 5.5% and 5.8% respectively for the Episcopal Church nationally.

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It would appear that the level of baptisms in this parish is above the diocesan norm but the rate of confirmations is considerably below.

From 1961 through 1963, the total reported expenditures at St. Alban's Church amounted to $37,279.00. Of this amount, $2,385.00, or 6.4%, was spent for work outside of the local congregation. This figure agrees closely with the 7% reported in the Church Self-Study Form on Page K-28 as the percent of the congregation's budget that goes for missionary work. In the Diocese of Pennsylvania this percentage is 14.9% for most Episcopal congregations.

Expenditures per communicant during this three-year period amounted to $52.36 for the parish and $73.71 for the diocese.

Extra-parochial expenditures per communicant during this time were $3.35 at St. Alban's and $10.45 for all Episcopal congregations in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

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VITAL STATISTICS

PARISH ST. ALBAN TOWN ROXBOROUGH

COUNTY PHILADELPHIA DIOCESE PENNSYLVANIA

	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962	1963
Baptized Members	436	350	381	386	379	362	349	456
Communicants	320	205	230	241	235	237	240	235
Church School	118	64	114	110	95	101	100	96
Baptisms	5	13	10	12	5	9	17	11
Percentage of Communicants	1.6	6.3	4.3	5.0	2.1	3.8	7.1	4.7
Confirmations	10	6	7	21	21	1	10	–
Percentage of Communicants	3.1	2.9	3.0	8.7	8.9	0.4	4.2	–
Parochial Expenditures 1	3,493	3,620	5,846	8,611	10,624	10,326	10.026	11.109
Special Par. Expenditures 2	391	2,727	2,821	604	1,946	1,728	593	1112
Extra-parochial Expenditures 3	181	550	773	609	535	635	760	990
Total Reported Expenditures	4,065	6,897	9,440	9,824	13,105	12,689	11,379	13,211
Expenditures per Communicant	12.70	33.64	41.04	40.76	55.77	53.54	47.41	56.22
Extra-parochial Expenditures per Communicant	0.57	2.68	3.36	2.53	2.28	2.68	3.17	4.21

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1 Includes clergy salary, current expense, pension premium, and Diocesan assessment.

2 Special parish purposes, including capital expenditures.

3 Includes Church's Program, special outside.

DATA ON THE CONGREGATION

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The Episcopal Census submitted by this congregation listed 240 persons on the age and sex chart. This number is only 52% of the reported baptized membership of this congregation. The Division of Research regrets that this number is too small to give a statistically valid picture of the congregation's characteristics. A minimum figure of 80% is necessary before conclusions can be drawn regarding the congregation's profile. To use less than this percentage as the basis upon which to draw conclusions could very easily allow an erroneous assumption to be drawn.

The following is a tabulation of the data that were submitted. Of the 240 individuals reported on, 101 were male and 139 were female. This total number included 29 children under 10 years of age, 37 older children and teen-agers, 28 adults in their 20's, 29 adults in their 30's, 34 adults in their 40's, 48 adults in their 50's, 23 adults in their 60's, and 21 adults 70 years of age and over.

Of 247 occupations reported on, 133 were in a non-gainfully employed category. The total number included 18 pre-students, 53 students, 52 housewives, 21 professional people, 11 managers, 23 clerical workers, six sales workers, 11 craftsmen, 26 semi-skilled workers, 10 service workers, two laborers, nine retired persons, one unemployed, and four in the Armed Forces.

Of 249 respondents, two said they were not baptized and 94 said they were not confirmed.

Length of membership in this congregation was given by 169 respondents, including 13 who had been at St. Alban's 50 years or more, nine from 40 to 50 years, nine from 30 to 40 years, six from 25 to 30 years, seven from 20 to 25 years, 20 from 15 to 20 years, 35 from 10 to 15 years, 36 from five to 10 years, and 34 less than five years. It must be remembered that this latter category includes children under five years of age.

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The educational level of adults 25 years of age and over was requested in the census and there were 164 responses. This number included 18 college graduates, 17 who had attended college, 59 high school graduates, 39 who had attended high school, and 31 who had an elementary education.

Of 255 places of birth reported on, 47 said they were born outside of the State of Pennsylvania including 11 born outside of the United States.

Non-members of the Episcopal Church were asked to list a religious denomination if they had one. There were 26 replies. Included were 11 Roman Catholics, six Lutherans, three Methodists, three Presbyterians, one Baptist, one Latter Day Saints', and one Other Christian. By way of contrast, present members of the Episcopal Church were asked to list a former religious affiliation if one existed. This number included five Presbyterians, four Methodists, four Roman Catholics, two Lutherans, one Baptist, one Congregationalist, and one Orthodox. It is interesting, if not significant, to note that this category contains less than the one ahead of it.

Nationality background was given by 139 respondents. The group included 88 Anglo-Saxons, 46 Northern Europeans, four Southern Europeans, and one of Russian or Slavic origin.

There were 98 families or individuals who reported on the distance they lived from the church. A breakdown shows that 43 lived within one mile of the church facilities, 22 lived from one to two miles away, 10 from two to three miles, eight from three to four miles, and 15 resided four miles or more away.

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Travel time to reach the church was given by 97 respondents including 29 who needed less than 10 minutes, 50 who required from 10 to 20 minutes, eight who said it took them 20 to 30 minutes, and 10 who reported needing 30 minutes or more to reach St. Alban's.

Information regarding home ownership was requested in this census and there were 95 families or individuals who responded. There were 73 who said they either owned or were buying their own homes, and 32 who said they were not. There were 49 single-family units reported, 21 duplexes, 22 apartments lived in, two rooming houses, and one institution. The age of 72 of these residences was given, and 26 were built before 1920, 28 were erected between 1920 and 1950, 13 were built between 1950 and 1960, and five had been erected since 1960.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH, Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Although St. Alban's parish has remained at the same relative communicant strength for the past two decades, there are areas of opportunity to be found in the expanding population of the community. New homes and apartments are being built in sections surrounding the church, and a concentrated effort on the part of the parish could bring about an increase in membership and in community outreach.

The current improvement of parish house facilities will provide further opportunities for this congregation to be of greater service to its community.

It is recommended that a special parish study committee be appointed to receive this Survey report and use it as a first step in the development of a five-year program and goal for the parish. Such a committee should include both male and female representatives from all aspects of the congregation. No one person or group should dominate. If found advisable, this parish study group could continue as a Parish Council, or committee of advice.

One of the primary steps to be taken should be a re-examination of the purpose of the parish and of the message that it has for the community of Roxborough. All parish organizations and groups should be evaluated in terms of this purpose and message, and where such a group or program is found no longer to be germane, it should be gracefully retired with appreciation for past service. Data submitted in this Survey indicate that there is a

top-heavy amount of time and money being spent on serving the members of the congregation. There is opportunity here to begin building a philosophy of concern and outreach beyond the membership of the congregation.

According to the figures submitted in the Church Self-Study Form, pledges per communicant in this congregation amount to $24.64. It is also reported that no Every Member Canvass is conducted. A comparatively low level of participation in activities by members of the congregation is also noted. These and other factors reveal the necessity for a long-range stewardship education program. Members of St. Alban's should come to understand that their giving is an intregal part of their worship. The setting aside of a certain percentage of income, looking to a 10% tithe, is part of the Christian's understanding of his relation to God and this world. As members of the congregation come to understand their stewardship, there will no longer be the dire necessity for parish groups to raise money and this activity can then be decreased or converted to some purpose outside of local needs.

With the increase in multiple-family dwellings in the area, a program of lay calling and evangelism could profitably be developed. Such a program is not the sole responsibility of the rector. Many parishes find that a zone structure or organization is useful and such could be the case in this parish. At the present time there is no formal plan or program for calling on newcomers, except that of the rector. This probably means that lay calling is either haphazard or non-existent. Newcomers moving into the parish should be called on by lay people within two weeks.

This call should be for the purpose of extending a sincere welcome to the community, a friendly offer of help in locating community shops and services, and an informal and simple invitation to come to St. Alban's if there is no other strong religious preference. This visit should be in addition to any that the rector of the parish may make. The locating of newcomers can be done through community sources and the scheduling of who is to call on them should be part of the zone organization. The future growth of this congregation could be markedly increased by an extensive calling program by lay people.

St. Alban's Parish has much to offer and much to gain by increasing its participation in diocesan programs and activities. As the diocese moves ahead under a new bishop, men and women of the congregation should be informed and aware of what is going on and should, in increasing numbers, share in the work being undertaken, as the opportunity presents itself.

The Church Self-Study Form reports that this congregation is community-minded. It is to be noted, however, that there is no general church program for the community and that no community organizations use the facilities of the church. In cooperation with other congregations of the area a study could be made of the basic needs in the region, and the congregation could then adopt one of these and aid in its fulfillment. Welfare workers, police personnel, and juvenile judges are good sources for finding out the needs of a community.

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The Survey shows that there are opportunities for growth and for service to others all around St. Alban's Church. Whether or not these opportunities are seized will depend upon the commitment and devotion of the lay men and women of this church. St. Alban's Church can increase its membership if it wishes to, but more important, it can serve its community in significant ways and thus aid in the redeeming of the world that God so loved.